

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FEB. 7, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR FEB. 7, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



1. Centennial Lakes Park – January 2014 represented the largest winter revenue month in the history of Centennial Lakes Park, despite the record cold temperatures that forced the rink to close for all or part of 10 days. More than 20,000 skaters braved the elements to enjoy the great ice conditions!
2. Cold Weather Impacts on Infrastructure – Public Works staff were alerted to a watermain break on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 6, near the intersection of Nordic Circle and Creek Valley Road. Staff investigated the report and determined that it should be fixed immediately since the water service to the school would need to be interrupted. Crews worked through the night to complete the repair in time for school to reopen to avoid another day off for the kids.

Additionally, there was a hydrant failure at Creek Valley Park that threatened the viability of the skating rink. The rinks closed for a couple of days until the skating surface can be reestablished. Crews are in the process of coordinating that repair.

3. Planning Commission News – On Wednesday, Feb. 12, the Planning Commission will review a subdivision request to divide 6304 and 6312 Warren Avenue into three lots. The City Council will review this proposal on March 1.

The Planning Commission will also review Sketch Plan proposals to redevelop 5100 and 5108 Edina Industrial Boulevard. The specific requests are to tear down the existing office buildings and build new retail buildings including two coffee shops with drive-thrus. Rezoning and Comprehensive Guide Plan amendments would be required. The City Council will review these Sketch Plans on March 1.

The Planning Commission is continuing its development of a Tree Preservation Ordinance. A public hearing is scheduled for the Feb. 26 Planning Commission meeting, with the idea of forwarding the amendment for Council consideration in March or April.

4. National League of Cities Appointment – Council Member Joni Bennett has been appointed to serve on the National League of Cities' First Tier Suburbs Council (FTS). The FTS studies and discusses public policy issues at the national, state and local levels that have particular relevance for inner-ring suburban cities in the United States.
5. 2014 Road Construction Bids – Staff will get its first look at construction prices for 2014 Tuesday, Feb. 11, when we open bids for the Bredesen Park D, Countryside F, and Strachauer Park B Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Projects.
6. Edina Film Festival – The Edina Film Festival Committee held its first meeting of 2014 on Monday, Feb. 3. The committee has tentatively chosen to be part of the Edina Art Center Working Group. Arts & Culture Commissioner Dana Lappin is chair of the Art Center Working Group. All but two of the 2013 committee members returned.

7. Employee News – Krystal Caron started her job as a part-time Communications Coordinator in the Communications & Technology Services Department Tuesday, Feb. 4. Caron was most recently Communications Director for the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council.
8. Morningside Sidewalks – Engineering staff will host a meeting at the Weber Park warming house on Thursday morning, Feb. 13, to gather input from residents that who be affected by the construction of the sidewalks along Crocker Avenue and Grimes Avenue, south of 42nd Street, as part of the Morningside B Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Project.
9. Southdale TIF District Extension – I spoke with the finance team from Ehlers and the legislative team from Dorsey & Whitney this week to discuss the plan to seek the renewal and extension of the Southdale TIF District. The two teams will collaborate to prepare a bill to submit for this session later this month.
10. Speak Up, Edina – Communications Coordinator Jordan Gilgenbach will present a summary of the January “Speak Up, Edina” dialogue on food trucks to the City Council at the Council’s Feb. 18 Council meeting. The February Speak Up topic is the City’s 60/40 requirement of our On Sale liquor license regulation. That discussion is already underway.
11. Fire Department Technology – The Edina Fire Department is in the process of upgrading HealthEMS Mobile, the department’s electronic pre-hospital care reporting software. This upgrade is not a typical upgrade and will now be tailored to mobile touch devices. HealthEMS Mobile Touch will allow for all of the same functionality that exists in the current version. They will retain the ability to transmit patient vitals, timing of medications administered and heart monitor data from the Lifepak defibrillator/monitor devices over Bluetooth that is then attached to the ePCR form as well as the ability to send an electronic fax of this ePCR form to the hospital to which the patient is being transported. The department will gain more flexibility in using the software as it has been developed solely for mobile devices, giving them the ability to use lighter devices. Panasonic Toughpad tablets will replace the heavier Panasonic Toughbook convertible laptops.

North Memorial Ambulance Services came on board with HealthEMS Mobile Touch last fall and is using the same Panasonic Toughpad device that Edina has purchased. They will be a great resource for our own ambulance service to learn how their “Road To Mobile” has been and how we might be able to improve our use.